

Ephesians: Who Do You Think You Are?

(Eph. 1:1-14)

Greetings (v. 1-2)

- Ephesians is a letter written by Paul
 - Who identifies himself as an apostle chosen by God
 - Apostle: “Sent one”; a missionary with divine authority to establish & lead the Church
- Written to the church in Ephesus
 - The 3rd largest city in the Roman Empire
 - Paul had spent over 2 years building up the Church there around five years before this letter was written
 - Whom Paul calls holy & faithful
- Greets them with a Greek (*grace*) & Jewish (*peace*) salutation

Being “in Christ”

- Doesn't just mean we believe in Jesus
- It means that we are positionally in Him
 - God the Father sees Jesus when He looks at us
- We find our identity in that relationship
 - And we receive the benefits of that relationship
- This is a major theme in Ephesians
 - Used 12 times from v. 1-14

We Are... (v. 3-8a)

- Blessed: We have God's hand upon us
 - To live holy & blameless lives
 - Holy: set apart for God's purpose
 - Blameless: used to refer to sacrifices being without blemish
 - Here it means morally clean
- Adopted/Chosen: Brought into God's family through Jesus
 - Predestined: Never an individual focus
 - Always communal: God's people/sons
 - We are chosen because we are in Christ
 - Which brings privilege
 - But also, *always* brings responsibility
- Forgiven: Our sins have been paid for through Jesus' blood
 - Redeemed: Bought back from slavery to sin and death
- All through grace
 - Not because of our goodness
 - But, for His own good purpose

We Are... (v. 8b-14)

- Part of God's eternal plan
 - Which He has made known & is accomplishing through Jesus
 - Which He continues to work out through us

- Recipients of His Spirit
 - Given to us as a guarantee of our inheritance as adopted heirs
 - Who makes His grace work in and through us
 - The Spirit's work in us shows that we truly belong to God

So What?

- Are we in Christ?
 - Do we find our identity in Him?
- Do we see ourselves as blessed, chosen, forgiven children who have a part to play in God's plan and work in the world through His Spirit at work in us?

Meditation Verse: Ephesians 1:13-14